

EggNotes

Board of Directors

Chair: Susan Schafers 780-722-3238
Vice Chair: John Hofer 403-641-2030
EFC Director: Joe Kleinsasser 403-653-4480
EFC Alternate: Beatrice Visser 780-674-6297
Director: Byron Toews 403-389-4404
Director: Peter Waldner 403-795-8621

EFA Staff

General Manager: Susan Gal
 ext: 124
Marketing & Comm. Manager: David Webb
 ext: 126
Marketing & Social Media Coordinator: Angie Lang
 ext: 103
Farm Programs Manager: Christina Robinson
Industry Development Officer: Jenna Griffin
 ext: 129
Office Manager: Laurel Martin
 ext: 121
Logistics Coordinator: Brandy Addai
 ext: 101
Farm Services Administrator: Erin Johnston
 ext: 127
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 ext: 132
Fields Services Coordinator: Dave Lastwka
 ext: 128
Fields Services Coordinator: Murray Minchin
 ext: 131
Application Support Specialist: Kelly Pow
 ext: 105

EFA Vision Statement

Healthy Food, Healthy Farms, Healthy Families

EFA Mission Statement

Cultivating a sustainable egg industry together with farmers, consumers & other stakeholders

EFA Office Hours

Our office will be closed Monday, July 3 for Canada Day & Monday, August 7 for Heritage Day

Egg Price Update

Effective January 29, 2017

CANADA GRADE	EGG SIZE	CURRENT PRICE (29-Jan-17)	PREVIOUS PRICE (14-Aug-16)
A	Extra Large	\$2.130	\$2.080
A	Large	\$2.130	\$2.080
A	Medium	\$1.900	\$1.850
A	Small	\$1.530	\$1.480
A	Nest Run	\$2.006	\$1.959
A	Pee Wee	\$0.270	\$0.270
B	-	\$0.750	\$0.750
C	-	\$0.150	\$0.150

Note: From the minimum paying price, processors can only deduct charges as authorized by the EFA Board. Farm-gate pickup rates were set in August 2010, and no increase in individual freight rates have been approved since that time.

EggNotes is the official newsletter of the Egg Farmers of Alberta.

Submissions should be sent to:
info@eggs.ab.ca

Next Issue: August 2017



EFA Board Update

The Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors would like to thank our fellow egg farmers and industry partners for a tremendous round of regional meetings, which introduced an exciting new format. It was great to see so many farmers engaged in discussion about a variety of pertinent topics. The Board has worked through all the policy feedback from the regional meetings, which will be summarized and reported back to producers.

The Board also determined how the additional input would be handled:

- The Board reviewed the request related to producer motions being made at the EFA AGM. The Board is committed to engage producers on policy directions that directly impact producers, and values the input and feedback received. Producers are able to quickly convey how various policies impact them on the farm, and there is a need to consider the implications from a broader view to ensure that policy decisions are sustainable into the future. As such, the Board spends a considerable amount of time researching and exploring all the avenues and possible implications, including feedback from producers, prior to make a decision. The Board will continue to seek out producers' input, and any motions from the AGM floor will be considered as part of the Board's final decision;
- The Board will review enriched housing at 90 square inches at their next meeting (July 25/17);
- The Board's Conflict of Interest Policy can be amended at any Board meeting, as the Board sees fit;
- All policies that directly impact producers as well as the Board policy, will be posted on the producer website in due course;
- The Board will consider avenues for training producers on proper governance.

Egg Farmers of Canada elected Roger Pelissero, a third generation egg farmer from Ontario, as its new Chairman, at EFC's 44th AGM in March, 2017. Egg Farmers of Alberta would like to thank Peter Clarke, the outgoing Chairman, for his five years of dedicated service and leadership of the national egg industry.

HEALTHY BIRDS
HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



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Alberta Egg Farmers

HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Producer Website

The producer website is bursting with new information! On the homepage (www.albertaeggproducers.com) you will find follow-up information from the recent round of EFA Regional Meetings, an update on the status of the North American Free Trade Agreement renegotiations, and details about the Alberta government's proposed Bill 17.

Be sure to check out the updated and comprehensive FAQ sheet on end of lay depopulation; you can find this both on the Regional Meeting follow-up and under Animal Care - Best Practices / Humane Endings (www.albertaeggproducers.com/animal-care/BestPractices/HumaneEndings).

If there is something new you would like to see added to the producer website, please let EFA know! The staff is also working on refreshing the producer website, and would appreciate any input and feedback you may have.

Neilsen Data

The Nielsen retail sales data is available up to May 27, 2017 and indicates that in the latest 4-week period, 2.98 million dozen eggs were sold in Alberta; an 11.0% decline from the previous 4-week period (ending April 29th), but a 2.4% increase in sales compared to the same period in 2016. The timing for Easter is the main cause of the differences between periods.

Nielsen retail sales in the last 52 weeks are up 4.2% over the previous 52 weeks in Alberta, to 39.64 million dozen eggs. Specialty eggs (excluding Omega-3 eggs) have seen the largest sales growth in the last 52 weeks in Alberta; a 18.2% increase over the previous 52 weeks, to 3.4 million dozen eggs (8.6% of the total eggs sold in Alberta).



Yolk of the month

Q: What day do eggs hate most?

A: Fry-day!

HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Field Statistics

Here's an update on how our farmers are doing with their on-farm programs so far this year:

Animal Care Program:

- 67 ACP evaluations have been completed in 2017
- Alberta's average score is 99.95%
- 61 facilities have received a rating of 100%

Start Clean - Stay Clean Layer Program:

- 66 SC-SC evaluations have been completed in 2017
- Alberta's average score is 99.87%
- 56 egg farmers have scored a perfect 100% rating

Start Clean - Stay Clean Pullet Program:

- 56 SC-SC evaluations have been completed in 2017
- Alberta's average score is 99.68%
- 42 pullet growers have scored a perfect 100% rating
- 8 pullet growers are newly accredited

EFA would like to thank all the province's egg farmers and pullet growers for their commitment and hard work, each and every day, to ensure that safe, high quality eggs are produced humanely.



Alberta Foodies Tour

On May 16, 2017, EFA visited Paul Wurz at Morinville Colony with local foodies and bloggers in the Edmonton area. Paul was great at giving all the information about eggs and how they are graded on site. The ladies were surprised to know that his eggs can be on the shelves within 24 hours of being laid. You can read the full article and watch the video at: eggs.ab.ca/about/efa-blog

Healthy Farms



Bill 17 Introduced

On May 24, 2017, the Government of Alberta introduced the Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act, or Bill 17. Bill 17 includes a number of wide-ranging provisions designed to make changes to Alberta's employment standards process and labour codes, including provisions that give farm and ranch workers the right to form a union.

The AgCoalition has come forward to express concern over the Government's process to introduce Bill 17, which comes only months after the conclusion of a lengthy consultation process for Bill 6 - the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act. "The Bill 6 consultation process saw many farmer and ranchers work tirelessly alongside other consultation participants to develop recommendations that would work at the farm and ranch level," said Kent Erickson, AgCoalition Chair. "The government's process to introduce Bill 17 is inconsistent with this work and introduces new provisions that may not be manageable for the agriculture industry."

The AgCoalition has prepared a summary of Bill 17, as it relates to the agriculture sector. This summary can be viewed on the homepage of EFA's producer website.

Upcoming Events

July 7-16: Calgary Stampede (Calgary)

July 10: Premier's Stampede Breakfast (McDougall Centre)

July 10-12: EFC Producer Conference & Board Meeting (Toronto)

July 20: Premier's K-Days Breakfast (Edmonton, Legislature Grounds)

July 25: EFA Board Meeting (Calgary)

August 10: Production Management Committee (Calgary)

August 23: Grader Advisory Committee Meeting (Calgary)



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Alberta Egg Farmers

Net Zero Barn Update

On farm energy use represents about 62% of an egg operation's on-farm climate change impact in Alberta. In an effort to investigate and communicate technology options for reducing this impact, EFA and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) partnered with Brant Colony, to design and construct an egg laying facility that would come as close as possible to balancing energy generation and consumption (ie: net-0). Thanks to funding from Growing Forward 2, in addition to other energy conservation and generation technologies, the facility was able to make several upgrades to their egg cooler:



- use of an Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) on the evaporator coil and condenser coil fans
- designated cold storage overhead doors with improved insulation

In addition, the barn was equipped with energy submeters to capture detailed data on areas of energy consumption in the layer barn. Data collected with respect to the cooler includes:

- compressor motor load
- condenser fan load
- evaporator fan load

In order to compare this data against benchmark coolers of a similar size, and better communicate the cost-benefit of these technologies to other egg farmers, EFA and AF worked with WestCan Solar and EnSave to install submeters in four other egg barns in Alberta. As a result of the data and analysis, the following information bulletins were developed and posted to EFA's producer website, under Best Production Practices / Environment:

1. Critical Factors Impacting Cooler Energy Efficiency
2. Energy Savings within an Energy Efficient Egg Cooler
3. Expected Cost Savings for your Energy Efficient Egg Cooler



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Alberta Egg Farmers

EFA has a new Farm Safety Committee!

The Farm Safety Committee held its first meeting on April 21, 2017, to review the history of farm safety initiatives in Alberta. The committee has reviewed draft programming for AgSafe Alberta.



The purpose of this committee is to:

- provide advice to EFA on programs and services related to farm safety, including feedback on their quality and effectiveness
- provide advice to EFA on emerging regulations and their sector impact
- identify existing and emerging occupational health and safety issues and trends, to support the strategic development of new initiatives
- provide a forum for the exchange of health and safety information between EFA, committee members, and selected guests
- act as advocates of farm safety, by supporting and promoting farm safety activities and initiatives, as appropriate
- participate in external farm safety working groups on behalf of EFA as needed, and report back to the committee

If you have any questions or ideas about farm safety, EFA encourages you to contact one of the committee members:

- Susan Schafers, STS Farms
- Matthew Wipf, Springside Colony
- Dan Entz, Twilight Colony



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Alberta Egg Farmers

Helping Make Energy Efficiency Achievable

Submitted by Kale Scarff and Vern Steinborn



The Government of Alberta, through Growing Forward 2 (GF2) a federal, provincial, territorial initiative, offers two incentive-based programs aimed at helping Alberta farmers and ranchers reduce energy consumption and associated costs.

The GF2 On-Farm Energy Management Program (OFEMP) and the GF2 On-Farm Solar Photovoltaic (OFSPV) Program offer farmers and ranchers the opportunity to become energy efficient by sharing the cost to purchase energy efficient or renewable technologies. These initiatives are intended to make energy efficient technology as affordable as current technology, making the environmentally friendly choice also the economically sensible choice.

Eligible projects of OFEMP include:

- Construction projects that install high-efficiency equipment from the program's Funding List;
 - Retrofit projects that improve operation energy usage per unit of production; and
 - Installation of submetres to monitor on-farm electricity and/or natural gas usage.
- Eligible OFSPV systems must be:

Grid-tied, not off-grid;

- Approved under Alberta's Micro-Generation Legislation;
- Positioned to optimize sunshine and minimize shading;
- Have manufacturer-warranties on: Solar modules, Racking, Inverters and/or Micro-inverters; and
- Producing power that is used in the production of a primary commodity.

The Government has partnered with three grassroots organizations staffed with Energy Outreach Officers whose role is to promote the OFEMP and the OFSPV Program to Alberta communities. Energy Outreach Officers are available to attend community events, talk about energy efficient technologies, as well as answer questions about the OFEMP and OFSPV Program and explain the benefits of these programs to farmers and ranchers. The Outreach Officers are also more than happy to meet one-on-one with farmers and ranchers to help them find potential energy efficiency solutions for their operation. You can get in touch with your regional Outreach Officer by contacting your municipality, or by calling your regional representative directly.

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Regional Contact Information:

North-central Alberta, from the MD of Mackenzie down to Wetaskiwin County.
Gateway Research Organization (GRO).
Energy Outreach Officer – Kale Scarff
Phone: (780) 307-7849
Email: groextension@telus.net



Eastern Alberta, from Lac La Biche County to the Special Areas.
Lakeland College.
Energy Outreach Officer – Lyle Lawrence
Phone (780) 853-8482
Email: lyle.lawrence@lakelandcollege.ca

South-central Alberta, from Clearwater County to Cypress County.
SouthGrow Regional Initiative.
Energy Outreach Officer – Vern Steinborn
Phone: (403) 894-0050
Email: vern.steinborn@southgrow.com

To learn more about the OFEMP and the OFSPV Program, including program status, visit www.growingforward.alberta.ca



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Multi-Tier Pullet Rearing Systems

During a recent webinar hosted by Egg Farmers of Canada, Dr. Tina Widowski, from the University of Guelph, shared her research that links multi-tier pullet rearing systems to lifelong physical and behavioral benefits in laying hens. Pullets raised in multi-tier pullet systems have more opportunities to exercise and learn behaviors such as perching and climbing. This activity when birds are young has been shown to result in stronger bones, increased muscle mass, and fewer keel bone fractures. Interestingly, these benefits are seen throughout the bird's life, regardless of the type of hen housing system they are placed in as a mature laying hen.

The complete EFC webinar on pullet rearing and bone health can be viewed at: www.eggfarmers.ca/off-to-the-right-start-long-term-benefits-of-exercise-for-bone-health

CLT Transportation Course

The Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) course is a comprehensive training course for livestock truckers, shippers and receivers. For the first time ever, CLT has launched an online training program focused on poultry transport. The course has 5 modules: Introduction to Welfare, Laws & Regulations, Behaviour & Handling, Transportation, and Risk Management. Each module takes approximately 45 minutes to complete, for an approximate total time of 4 hours to complete the course. You must achieve 80% or greater on the exams, which are required to complete each module. You are allowed up to 3 exam retakes. Upon completion of the course, you will receive a CLT transport course certificate.

If you missed Alberta Farm Animal Care's (AFAC) transportation courses earlier this year, or would like to build on your transport education, the online CLT courses might be exactly what you are looking for. CLT is currently offering a 50% discount on their online course until July 15, 2017. The discounted course fee is \$187.50.

CLT's online course can be accessed at: <http://clt2016.azurewebsites.net/index.aspx>

Animal Agriculture Mini-Internship

Submitted by Frank Robinson, Professor of Poultry Production and Physiology, University of Alberta

The Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences Reading Week Student Mini-Internship program was developed at the University of Alberta in 2016. A total of 37 Agriculture and Animal Health Students signed up and spent three days working on Alberta farms. We are looking for host farms for this next academic year.

What is it? For several years, students have indicated that they wished there was an opportunity for them to volunteer on a farm for a few days so that they could get a better idea of what agriculture is about and so that they would have a little bit of experience when it came time to apply for summer jobs or career positions. Over the last year, I have been working with the U of A Career Center, to put in place a 3-day mini-internship program.

How does it work? What we do is match up 2-4 students with Alberta farms, or allied industries (processing plants, hatcheries, feed mills etc) to give real world experience. The students are volunteers, and are expected to provide their own transportation to the farm each day and would bring their own lunch. While farms close to Edmonton work out best, placements that are not necessarily in the Edmonton area are still welcomed. We would have students stay in local hotels if they are working more than 90 minutes from Edmonton. The hours are flexible, but I would like each student to log at least 18-24 hours during the three days. It is expected that students will assist with regular farm work and possibly work that you might perform now that you have some extra hands on the farm. Biosecurity guidelines are explained and adherence is an expectation that cannot be compromised. It is also important that any rules you have about leaving cell phones and cameras in vehicles are communicated to students.

Are the students familiar with agriculture? We interview each student who applies for the program. Students must have taken, or be currently taking Animal Science 200 (Introduction to Animal Agriculture) which is a class that I am involved with teaching.

What about liability? Students participating in the program are covered by the U of A liability insurance and by WCB. WCB considers this program as a practical experience in the student's academic program, as such the student is covered by WCB. Students registered in and attending a post-secondary institution are considered workers of the Government of Alberta (Advanced Education) for WCB purposes. The WCB office also clarified that the farmers will not need any additional coverage as they are not employing the students.

Are the student paid? No, what they gain for their work is experience.

What are the dates for this year? Fall Reading Week (November 15, 16 and 17) Winter Reading Week (February 21, 22 and 23).

How do I contact for further information, or to sign up?

Contact: Frank Robinson, Professor of Poultry Production and Physiology via email, at: frank.robinson@ualberta.ca



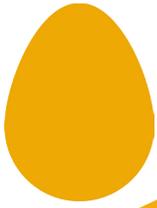
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Alberta Egg Farmers



Double Yolks

Have you ever wondered what causes double yolk eggs?

A double-yolk egg occurs when two egg yolks are released into a hen's oviduct too close together, and are encased inside the same shell. 'Double yolkers' occur naturally at a rate of about 1 in every 1,000 eggs, and are most common in younger hens, due to their change in hormones at the onset of lay. Typically, once the hens settle into a routine laying pattern, the production of double yolk eggs will diminish.

For Sale: Pullets

CLASSIFIED AD:

600 Decalb White Pullets, 19 weeks on August 8, 2017

For more information, call Walter @ 403-534-2166, ext.169, or email hens@riverbfarming.ca

CLASSIFIED AD:

300 Decalb White Pullets, 19 weeks on July 27, 2017

For more information, call Mark @ 403-641-2463, ext.156.